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S/N 09/682,843

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

a first indicator stick comprised of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

a second indicator stick comprised of a second compound which melts at a second given temperature; and

a connector physically connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly such that the first and second indicator sticks are independently operable thereto; and

a pair of extension mechanisms extending from the connector and constructed to independently advance each of the indicator sticks upon rotation of the respective extension mechanism.

2. (Currently Amended) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises:

a housing having at least one annular ring and adapted to receive the first and second indicator sticks within the housing;

a pair of resistance mechanisms attached to the housing to limit rotational movement of the first and second indicator sticks about an axis;

wherein the pair of extension mechanisms includes a pair of collets having threads, each collet rotatably coupled to the at least one annular ring of the housing; and

wherein each of the pair of collets is configured to engage separate temperature indicator sticks upon rotation of the collet about the housing.

3. (Previously Presented) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 further including a resistance mechanism attached to the connector to limit rotational movement of at least one of the first and second indicator sticks about an axis.

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4. (Previously Presented) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 3 wherein the resistance mechanism has a plurality of flanges.

5. (Currently Amended) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the pair of extension mechanisms further comprising at least one collet having threads attached to the connector, the threads of the at least one collet configured to engage one of the first and second indicator sticks.

6. (Currently Amended) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second indicator sticks has a ridge configured to engage threads of a collet of each of the extension mechanisms during extension of one of the first and second indicator sticks from each other.

7. (Previously Presented) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a first element and a second element, each element having a marking end and a union end.

8. (Previously Presented) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 7 wherein union ends of the first and second elements thread together.

9. (Previously Presented) The dual temperature indicator stick assembly of claim 1 wherein the connector prevents contact between the first and second indicator sticks.

10. (Previously Presented) A dual temperature indicator stick holder, the holder comprising:

a housing adapted to receive two temperature indicator sticks within the housing and having at least one annular ring;

a pair of resistance mechanisms attached to the housing to limit rotational movement of the two temperature indicator sticks about an axis;

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a pair of collets having threads, each collet rotatably coupled to the at least one annular ring of the housing; and

wherein each of the pair of collets is configured to engage separate temperature indicator sticks upon rotation of the collet about the housing.

11. (Original) The holder of claim 10 wherein the housing comprises a first element and a second element, each element having a collet end and a union end.

12. (Original) The holder of claim 11 wherein one of the union ends of the housing is configured to slidingly secure into the other union end.

13. (Previously Presented) The holder of claim 10 wherein the threads of each collet are constructed to engage a ridge of a temperature indicator stick to extend and retract the temperature indicator stick from the housing.

14. (Original) The holder of claim 13 wherein the housing is contoured at both ends to align the threads of each collet with the at least one ridge of each temperature indicator stick.

15. (Original) The holder of claim 10 wherein the pair of resistance mechanisms each have a plurality of flanges.

16. (Currently Amended) A dual temperature indicator stick apparatus comprising:

first means for indicating a first temperature when in direct contact with a heated surface by leaving a portion of the first means thereon;

second means for indicating a second temperature when in direct contact with a heated surface by leaving a portion of the second means thereon; and

means for replaceably retaining the first means to the second means to form a single indicator stick capable of indicating at least two temperatures; and

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~~extending the first means without affecting the position of the second means relative to the means for retaining.~~

means for advancing the first indicating means;

means for advancing the second indicating means; and

wherein rotation of a respective advancing means extends a corresponding indicating means from the retaining means.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a means for aligning the first and second means along an axis.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a means for resisting rotational movement of the first and second indicating means about an axis.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein each of the advancement means further comprising a means for controlling movement extension and retraction of the first and second means.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second indicator means comprises a first temperature indicator stick and a second temperature indicator stick.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the means for retaining the first means to the second means comprises a connector.

22. (Currently Amended) A method to provide a dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

forming a first indicator stick of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

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forming a second indicator stick of a compound which melts at a second given temperature; ~~and~~

connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly to permit movement of the first indicator stick independent of the second indicator stick; and

forming a first and a second extension mechanism connected to the single assembly and constructed to extend the first and the second indicator sticks from the assembly upon rotation of each respective extension mechanism.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further including the step of aligning the first and second indicator sticks along an axis.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further including the step of preventing rotational movement of the first and second indicator sticks about an axis.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the single assembly comprises a housing having two threaded members connected thereto to engage the first and second indicator sticks.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the first and second indicator sticks are formed in an oval shape to provide a volume of space for indicator stick residue within the two threaded members.

28. (Previously Presented) A dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

a first indicator stick comprised of a first compound which melts at a first given temperature;

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a second indicator stick comprised of a second compound which melts at a second given temperature; and

a connector physically connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly wherein the connector comprises:

a housing having at least one annular lip and adapted to receive the first and second indicator sticks within the housing;

a pair of resistance mechanisms attached to the housing to limit rotational movement of the first and second indicator sticks about an axis;

a pair of collets having threads, each collet rotatably coupled to the at least one annular lip of the housing; and

wherein each of the pair of collets is configured to engage separate temperature indicator sticks upon rotation of the collet about the housing.

29. (Previously Presented) A dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

a first indicator stick comprised of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

a second indicator stick comprised of a second compound which melts at a second given temperature;

a connector physically connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly; and

at least one collet having threads attached to the connector, the threads of the at least one collet configured to engage one of the first and second indicator sticks.

30. (Previously Presented) A dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

a first indicator stick comprised of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

a second indicator stick comprised of a second compound which melts at a second given temperature; and

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a connector physically connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly wherein at least one of the first and second indicator sticks has a ridge configured to engage threads of a collet during extension of one of the first and second indicator sticks from each other.

31. (Currently Amended) A dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

a first indicator stick comprised of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

a second indicator stick comprised of a second compound which melts at a second given temperature; and

a connector physically connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly wherein the connector comprises a first element and a second element, each element having a marking end and a union end wherein each union end of the first and second elements extend beyond an end of a respective indicator stick housed therein and thread together and each marking end has an extension member connected thereto, the extension member constructed to extend and retract a respective indicator stick housed therein upon rotation relative thereto.

32. (Previously Presented) A method to provide a dual temperature indicator stick assembly comprising:

forming a first indicator stick having an oval shape of a compound which melts at a first given temperature;

forming a second indicator stick having an oval shape of a compound which melts at a second given temperature;

connecting the first and second indicator sticks in a single assembly such that the first indicator stick and the second indicator stick are independently engaged therewith; and

wherein the single assembly comprises a housing having two threaded members connected thereto to engage the first and second indicator sticks and the oval

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shape of the indicator sticks provides a volume of space for indicator stick residue within the two threaded members.